



Background on House Bill 4561

- House Bill 4561 (HB 4561) makes three changes in the Single State Construction Code Act (Code). First, it allows the state to update the components of the Code on either a three-year or six-year code cycle as it believes appropriate. Second, HB 4561 requires that any future additions of unlisted codes in the mandatory construction codes be approved by the state legislature and not through the administrative rules process. Third, it automatically allows for the use of new products and technologies provided for in an interim edition of one of the listed codes used by the state without any further need for testing or state approval, even if the state skips that edition.
- Current law requires the Code to be updated every three years regardless of whether the department feels it is necessary. It is important to note that HB 4561 does not mandate the code be updated only once every six years. It simply gives state regulators the flexibility to determine what they feel is best.
- 34 other states and Washington D.C. already use a flexible code cycle and find it works successfully. HB 4561 brings Michigan in line with successful practices already adopted by much of the rest of the country.
- Every time the Code is updated, people connected to the building industry including local governments must purchase expensive new code books. In 2009, this cost the industry \$15 million –even though there were minimal changes to the Code. The money goes to the same out-of-state companies that write the code. It would be much better for Michigan's economy to allow that money to stay in state and used to shore up Michigan's economy.
- The main purpose behind Michigan's Construction Code is to protect public safety. HB 4561 allows state officials to have more flexibility in its regulatory process, saves money AND continue to allow for effective rules that emphasize the importance of public safety.
- Some manufacturing interests are opposing HB 4561 because they say it will inhibit their ability to introduce new products and technologies into the marketplace. The legislation DOES allow for new products and technologies in a listed code to be used, but not mandated, even if that edition of the code is not adopted.
- There are several things HB 4561 will NOT do:
 - It will not make homes unsafe.
 - It will not affect insurance rates in Michigan.
 - It will not ban the adoption of new codes in Michigan.
 - It will not drive technology companies out of the state or prevent new ones from locating here.
 - It will not cost the state federal grant money.
 - It will not lock the state into a six-year code update cycle.

Who's on First?

A list of what codes are currently in use around the Great Lakes.

There are at least 30 different construction codes in use in the state of Illinois. Except for the energy code where both Michigan and Illinois use the 2009 International Energy Code, Illinois does not have a statewide construction code uniform across jurisdictions as Michigan does. They do have a state code which applies to all state buildings and which may also be adopted by local jurisdictions. Reed Construction Data lists the current construction codes for the 15 largest jurisdictions in Illinois. *You can see what codes other individual states or local jurisdiction use in the current code tab in your binder.*

The list of codes in use in Illinois include the:

- 1996 and 1999 editions of the Building Officials Code Administrators (BOCA) model building code;
- 2000, 2003 and 2006 editions of the International Code Council's (ICC) building code,
- 2000, 2003 and 2006 editions of the ICC's residential code,
- 2000, 2003 and 2006 editions of the ICC's plumbing code,
- 2000, 2003 and 2006 editions of the ICC's mechanical code.
- 1999, 2002, 2005, and 2008 editions of the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) electrical code.
- 1993, 1998, 2004 editions of Illinois's state plumbing code.
- Arlington Heights has its own electrical code.
- Chicago has its own building, plumbing, mechanical and electrical codes.
- Cook County has its own building code which includes plumbing, mechanical and electrical codes.

Around the rest of the Great Lakes:

- Indiana is on the 2006 International Building Code, the 2003 International Residential code, the 2006 International Mechanical Code, the 2008 NEC and the 1997 Uniform plumbing code.
- Minnesota is on the 2006 I-codes.
- Ohio is on the 2006 I-codes.
- Pennsylvania is on the 2009 I-codes.
- New York's 2010 codes are based on the 2006 I-codes. But, as in Illinois, locals can use a different code. Albany is on the 2000 I-codes. New York City is on the 2003 I-codes. Syracuse is on the 2002 edition of the state code which is based on the 2000 edition of the I-codes.
- Wisconsin writes its own statewide mandatory building codes. The latest edition of Wisconsin's Uniform Dwelling Code incorporates the 2006 I-codes.
- Canada has just finished its revision of the National Building Code of Canada. Canada is on a five-year code update cycle.